

## **Political Declaration by the Commission on Temporary experiments for organic varieties**

The Commission acknowledges the need to establish conditions under which organic varieties suitable for organic production shall be developed.

For the purpose of establishing criteria for the description of the characteristics of ‘organic varieties suitable for organic production’, as well as defining the conditions under which ‘organic varieties suitable for organic production’ may be produced with a view to marketing, and marketed under derogatory conditions, the Commission will organise at the latest 6 months after the date of application of the present Regulation a temporary experiment.

This temporary experiment will establish adapted criteria for describing the distinctness, uniformity, stability, and, where applicable, the value for cultivation and use of organic varieties suitable for organic production and address other marketing conditions such as labelling and packaging. These conditions and criteria will take into account the specific needs and objectives of organic agriculture such as enhancing genetic diversity, disease resistance and adaptation to soil and climate conditions. Yearly reports will be produced to monitor the progress of the temporary experiment.

In the framework of such an experiment, which shall have a term of seven years and foresee sufficient quantities, Member States may be released from certain obligations laid down in Directive 66/401/EEC, Directive 66/402/EEC, Directive 68/193/EEC, Directive 2002/53/EC, Directive 2002/54/EC, Directive 2002/55/EEC, Directive 2002/56/EEC, Directive 2002/57/EEC, Directive 2008/72/EEC and Directive 2008/90/CE.

The Commission will assess the result of this experiment with a view to propose the amendment of the requirements of the horizontal legislation on the marketing of seeds and other plant reproductive materials to the characteristics of the ‘organic varieties suitable for organic production’.